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Accessing the Child's Voice in research

Dr Sally Elton-Chalcraft
Institute of Education
University of Cumbria

Child in Cumbria

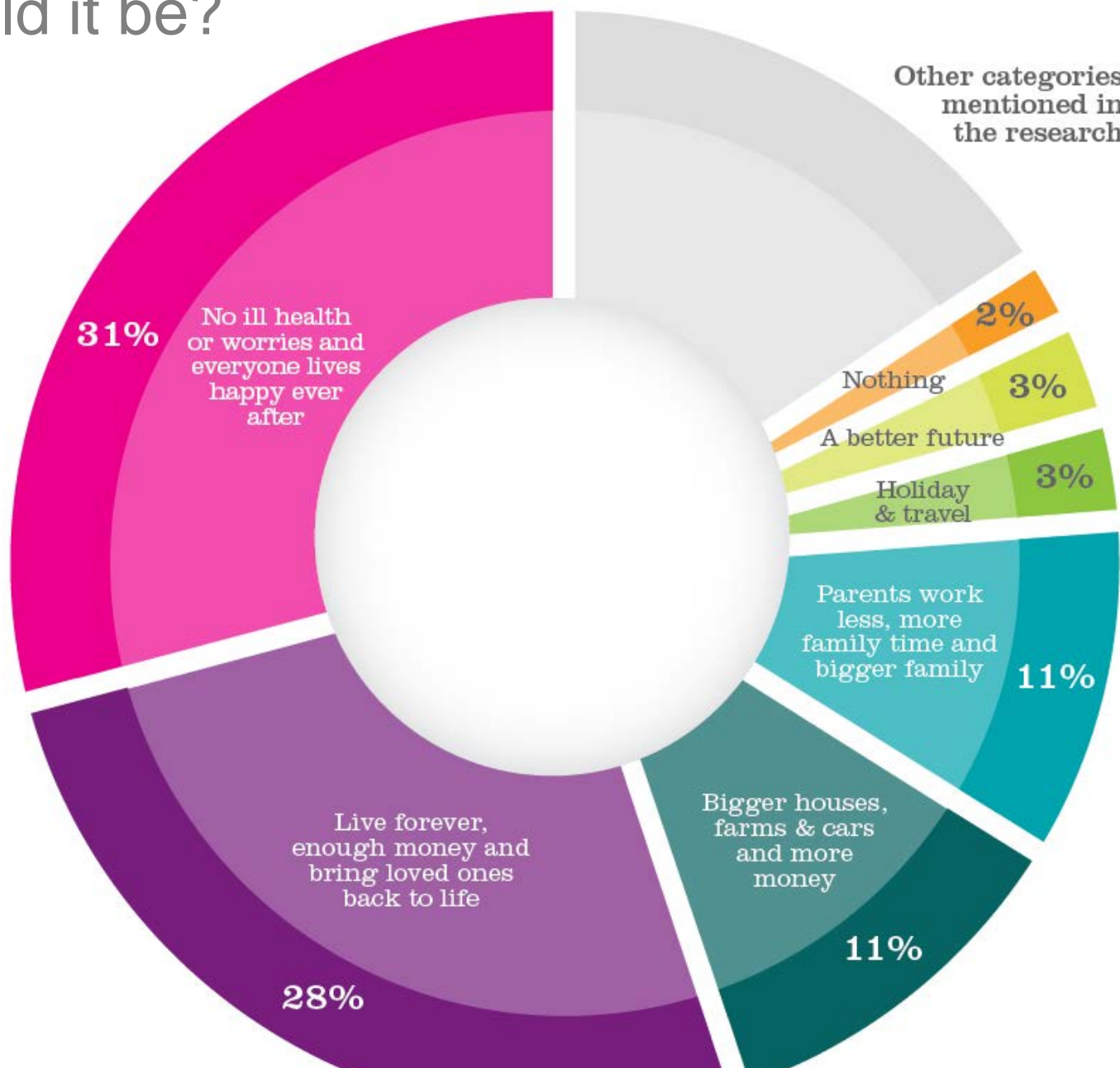
Dr Barnardos conference

University of Cumbria, Carlisle
2nd May 2018

Generating and analysing child voice data: underpinning principles

- Accessing children's voices
- Ethics - power and informed consent
- Collaborative data gathering / generation
- Systematic analysis - 'view of child' and bigger picture issues
- Implications for practice – Child in Cumbria

If you could make one wish for your family what would it be?



TEN
years
2007-2017

Challenges of Accessing child voice

- Gaining consent – parental and child
- Being ethical throughout the project
- Analysing data – leaving out the ‘negative bits’
- Reporting findings honestly
- Implications for practice – authentic listening and implementing changes to practice

Powerpoint slides to obtain consent from children to participate in her study about a Nurture Group

(Elizabeth Dawson - MA
dissertation research:
permission gained to use
for educational purposes
Supervisor SEC)



Hello, it's me, Mrs Dawson.
I would like to know what
children in The Den think.
What do you think about your
learning?

Will you help me to find out?

Listen



On one day, you can draw pictures.



Listen



I want to record what we talk about.



I would like to take pictures.

I want to write about what I find out.



I will keep your pictures and photos safe and private.
I will change your name if I write about you.

~~Sam~~

Rob ✓





I will delete recordings and photos if you don't want me to keep them.





You can stop any time you want to.



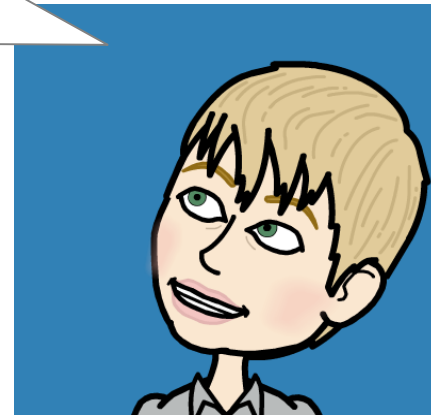
And you can join in again later if you want to.

Listen

Do you want to join in?



You can choose.
Just let me know.




Listen

Ethical research wheel (Macpherson & Tyson 2008: 62)



Findings from Cumbria child

“
 Teachers, friends
and people you can trust.”

“
 For adults to have the decency
to talk to children like
they would their friends!”



Our view of children influences how we gather, interpret and use data

James's 4 fold typology

- i) developing child
- ii) tribal child
- iii) adult child
- iv) Social child

(James 1995)





Other Views of Children

- 1) Children as **possessions**: vulnerable for a long time.
- 2) Children as **subjects requiring protection**
- 3) Children as **participants** - voices heard not in a tokenistic way.
- 4) Children as **citizens**.

Lloyd –Smith and Tarr (2000:63-69) expanded Jenkins' (1993) ways of seeing children



Sally's example :

Aims, research questions, methodology, findings

Aim: An appraisal of children's cultural awareness

Research question: What is children's knowledge about cultures represented in the UK

Methodology: observation, focus groups, semi structured interviews

Findings: A, B, C and D categories



Research methodology 'least adult role'



- Research was **child-centred** (Mayell 2000, Warren 2000)
- Adopted '**Least adult role**' (Mandell 1991)
- Used **Bean sheet** to give children prompts (O'Kane 2000)



cumbria.ac.uk

‘Least adult role’

‘Least adult role’ (Mandell 1991, Corsaro 1981, 2000), on the playground, in the classroom etc

Mandell climbed on roof of playhouse!

I just lined up with children and sat with them in class and assemblies!



Child Centred (methodology)



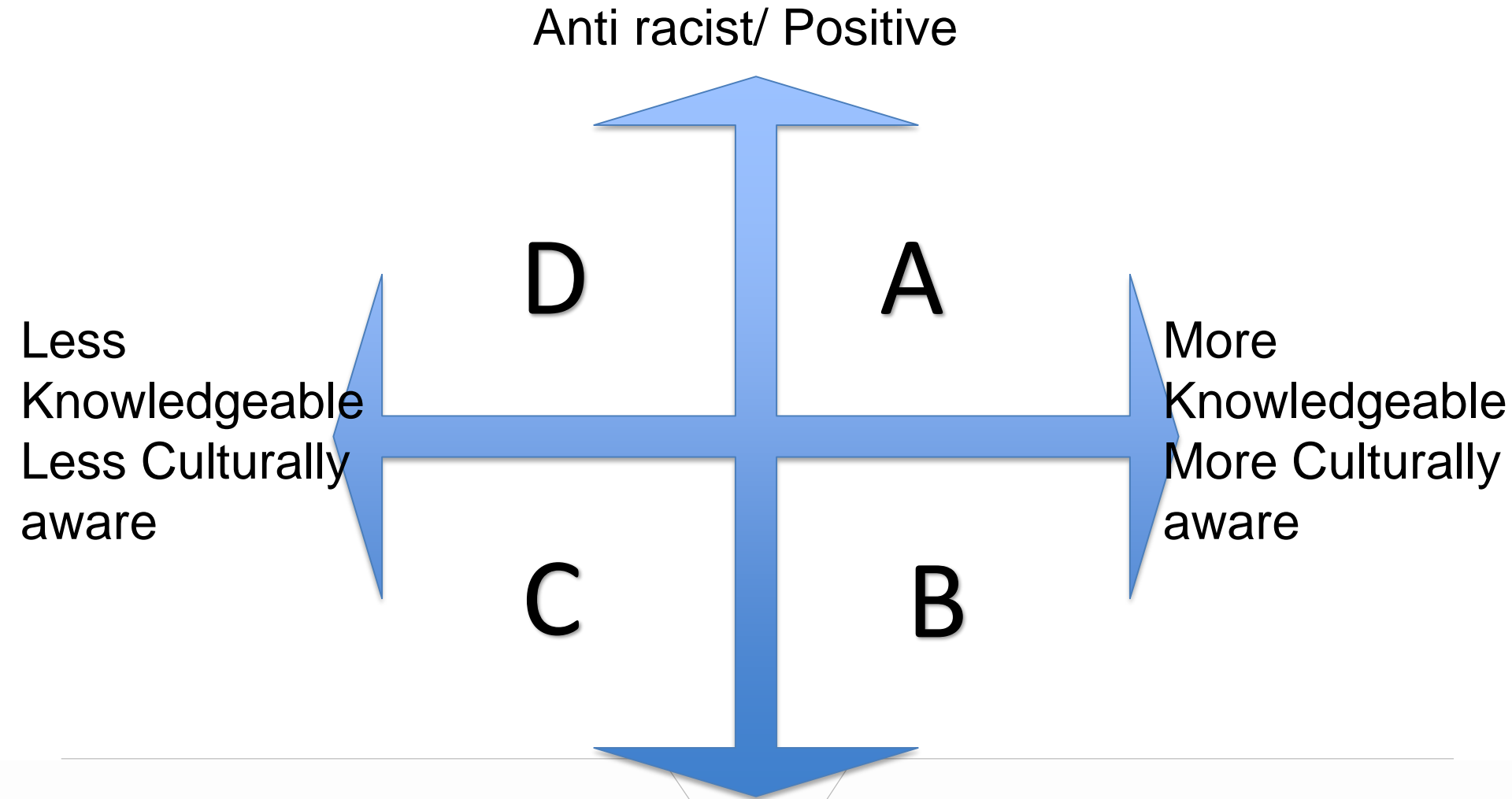
Feminist research:
acknowledgement of my
integration within the research,
NOT a neutral, objective
researcher

(Webb 2000; Woodhead & Falkner 2000)

Ontological perspective: I
worked collaboratively *with*
children – they had a degree
of ownership

Traveller not Miner (Kvale 1996)

Charting children's attitude / knowledge



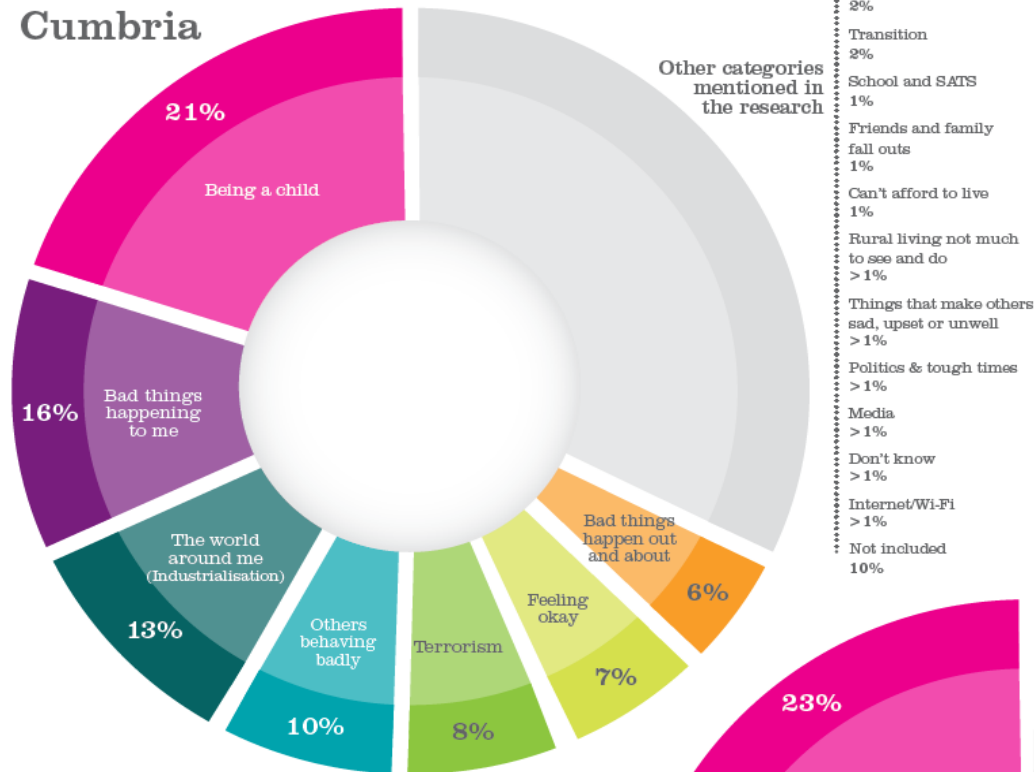
Conclusions- was this methodology successful ?

1. **Getting to know the children during the first phase** - they were more 'at ease' during the taped interview- **accuracy**
2. **Working collaboratively *with* the children** - they had ownership of the research- **valid**
3. **Explaining I wanted to investigate *their* opinions** - they could not be wrong **integrity**
4. **Assuming a 'least adult role'** - the children were probably more honest because I was not an authority figure- **reliable**

How can we interpret and use the data from the Cumbria Child project?

1. How does our view of children affect our data analysis, interpretations and recommendations for practice?
2. How closely are we listening to child voice and not assuming we have solutions?
3. How do our concepts of deprivation, poverty, safety... impact on our analysis, interpretation and recommendations? (the Bigger picture)

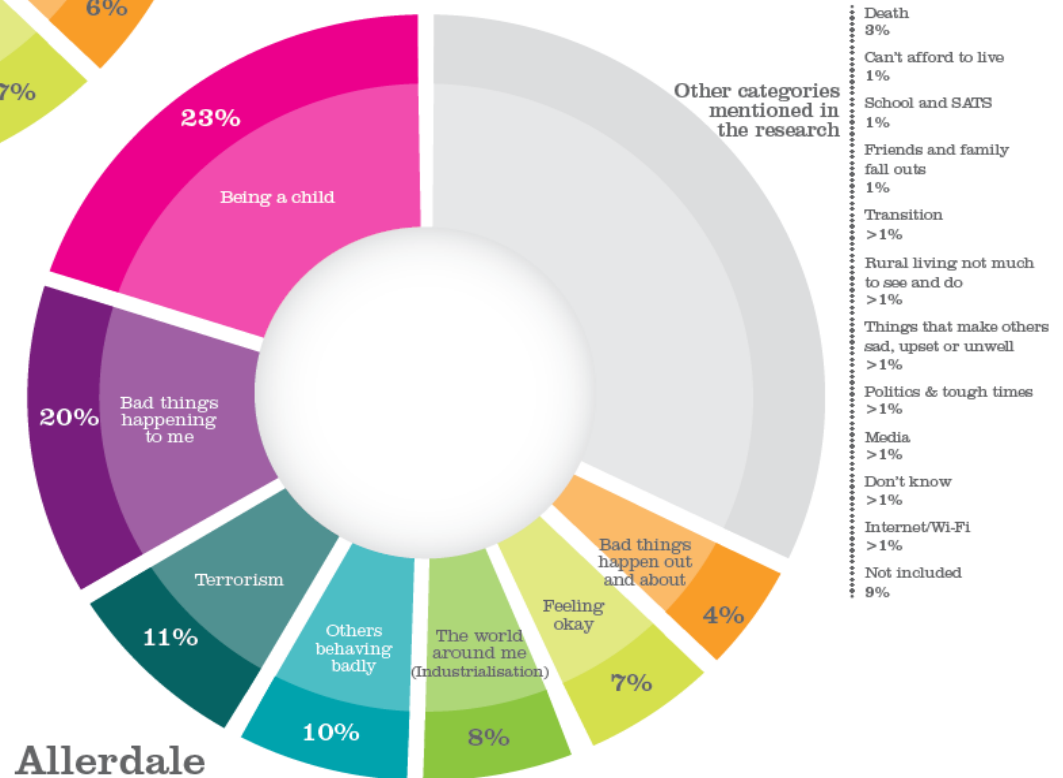
Cumbria



On this page you can see how Allerdale compares to the overall Cumbrian responses for the same question.

The first pie chart illustrates the 7 most popular responses in relation to question 3. Listed to the side are the least common responses stated from the children living in Cumbria.

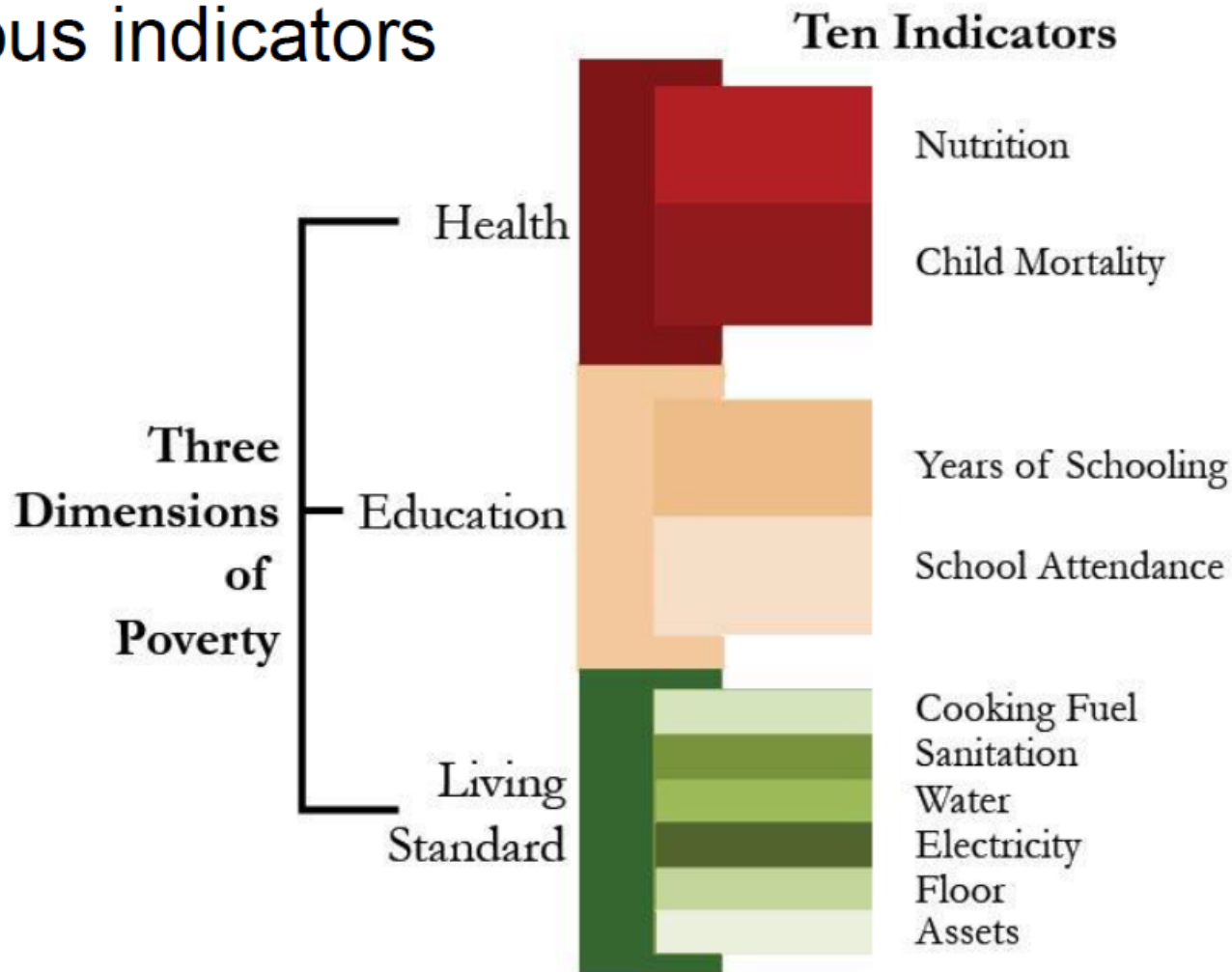
The second pie chart enables the reader to compare and contrast the children's responses from the area of Allerdale for the same question, in the same way as listed above.



Allerdale

Multidimensional Poverty

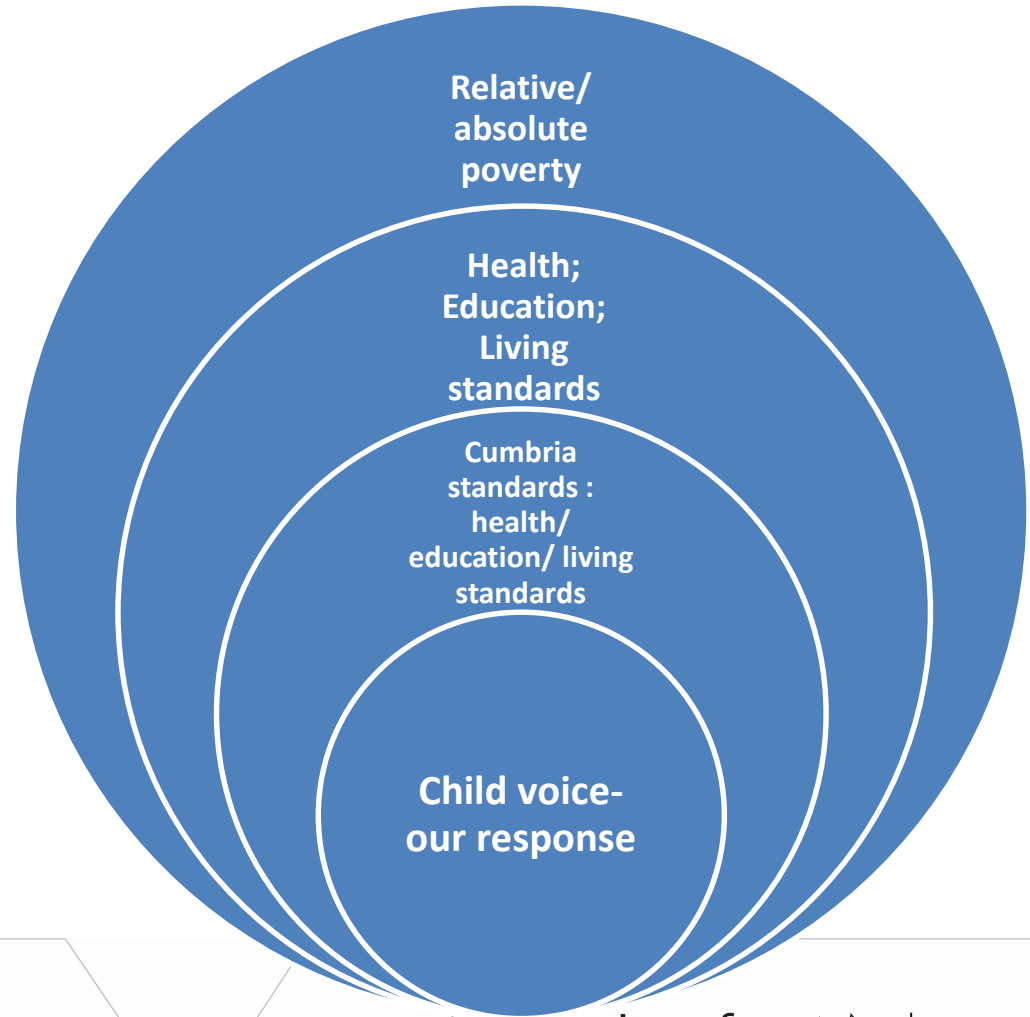
Various indicators



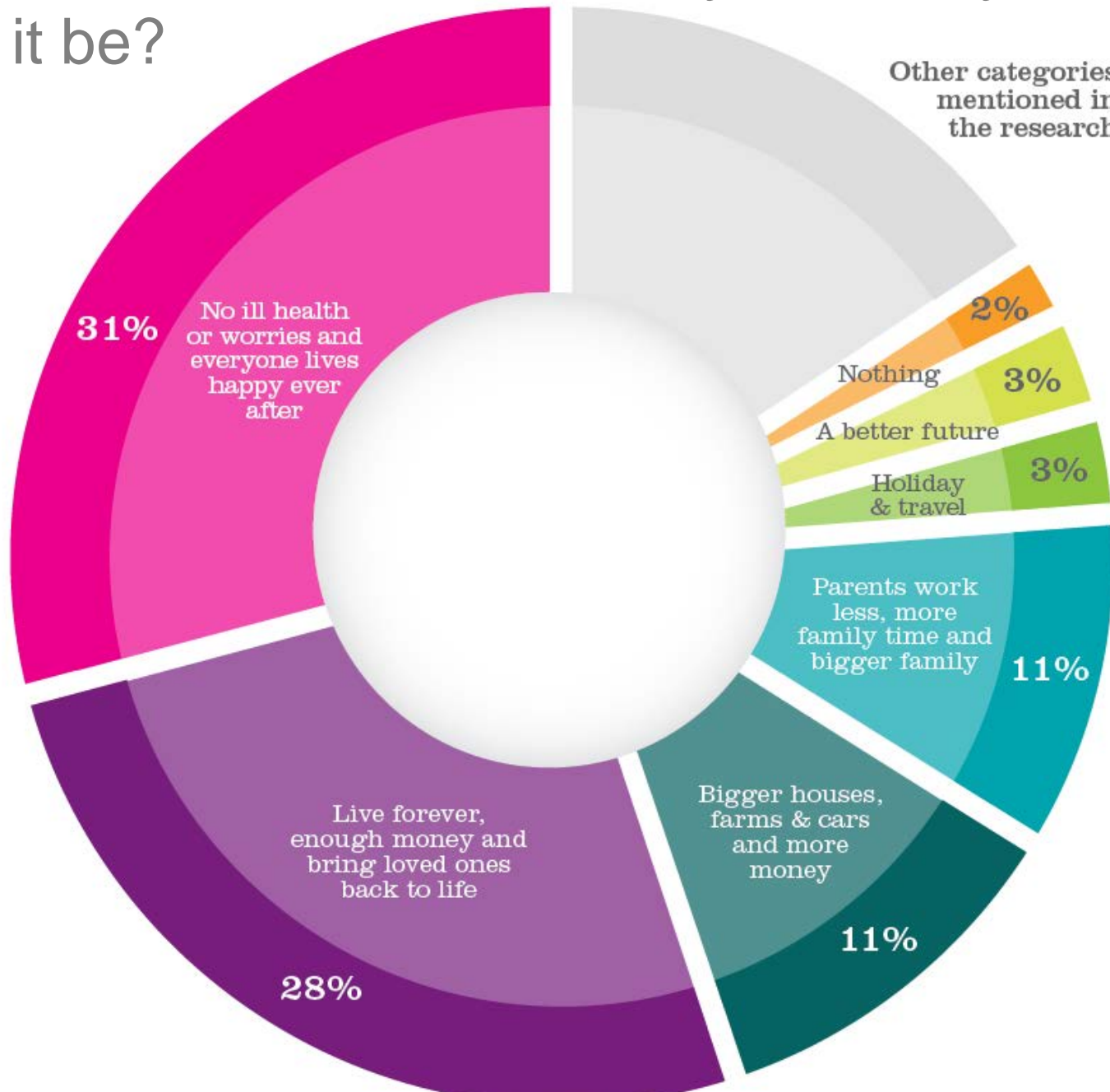
Reading, interpreting and using the data ?

Example: Poverty / deprivation- Bigger picture

1. Identify an issue
2. What do the children say – how does this relate to our practice?
3. Example Poverty / deprivation...



If you could make one wish for your family what would it be?



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Accessing the Child's Voice in Research

1. Confidence and competence in how to collect data in an ethical way? (power)
2. Confidence and competence in interpreting data (bigger picture, child voice)
3. Confidence and competence in agreeing implications for practice (integrity)



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